

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00
AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 ICA-11 COME-00 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SP-02
SSO-00 L-03 /122 W
-----077590 051846Z /45

O 051816Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0635
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 09243

FOR IO BARRY PASS HATHAWAY USDA

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, WFC, UN
SUBJECT: WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PROPOSED U. S. HOST-
SHIP DOCUMENTATION

1. FERCH-BYRNES MET TANCO FOR OVER AN HOUR, SUNDAY, JUNE 4. TALK WAS EXCEEDINGLY FRANK. TANCO IS DEFINITELY UPBEAT CONCERNING WILLIAMS AND DETERMINED TO PUSH HIS CANDIDACY BUT RECOGNIZED THE VERY SERIOUS OPPOSITION MOUNTED BY BANGLADESH. TANCO REVIEWED HIS EFFORTS TO DATE, WHICH COINCIDED PRECISELY WITH WASHINGTON UNDERSTANDINGS OF EVENTS. HE WAS ADVISED OF U.S. ACTIONS IN DACCA FOLLOWING HIS TALK WITH HATHAWAY AND BARRY, AND OF OUR UNDERSTANDING (WOLF-BYRNES TELCON), THAT DACCA HAS REPORTED NEGATIVELY ON BANGLADESH WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE. ALTHOUGH DISAPPOINTED TO HEAR LATEST RESULTS, IT APPARENTLY WILL NOT DETER TANCO.

2. TANCO SAID COMPROMISE OFFER WAS ACTUALLY IDEA OF
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AZIZUL HUG WHO RECOGNIZED VASTLY SUPERIOR QUALIFICATIONS OF WILLIAMS OVER AHMED. GAME PLAN OF TANCO IS NOW AS FOLLOWS: IN BUREAU (PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENTS AND RAPPORTEUR) TALKS LAST THURSDAY-FRIDAY, TANCO HAS OBTAINED UNIFIED SUPPORT FOR WILLIAMS. HE NOW WILL BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTERS, POINTING OUT; (A) WALDHEIM'S STRONG PREFERENCE FOR WILLIAMS, (B) SAOUMA'S CONVERSATION WITH

WALDHEIM IN WHICH WILLIAMS WAS FOUND ACCEPTABLE AND (C) WILLIAMS BROAD EXPERIENCE AS COMPARED AHMED. HE WILL PRESS FOR AS BROAD AGREEMENT AS HE CAN OBTAIN AND THEN CONTACT WALDHEIM, HOPEFULLY BEFORE END OF WFC, TO EFFECT APPOINTMENT.

3. IN EXPLAINING ABOVE, TANCO MADE A FEW COMMENTS WHICH BEAR REPORTING. FIRST, WALDHEIM HAS LEFT MATTER LARGELY IN HIS HANDS. SYG BASICALLY WANTS A DECISION WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO A LARGE NUMBER OF WFC MEMBERS AND DOES NOT CAUSE QUOTE TOO MANY SCREAMS END QUOTE FROM G-77, PARTICULARLY THE ROME CONTINGENT. SECONDLY, HE HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT SAOUMA'S HAND IN MATTER, BUT WITH THE DG ON RECORD WITH WALDHEIM, TANCO SAID HE WILL PLAY IT TO THE HILT.

4. AT ONE POINT, TANCO REFERRED TO AHMED AS SAOUMA'S WFC QUOTE BRITO END QUOTE AND ASKED HOW THE U. S. EVER AGREED TO SUCH AN APPOINTMENT, IN WFP, PARTICULARLY SINCE BRITO HAD CAUSED SO MUCH DIFFICULTY FOR THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. ISSUE WAS CLARIFIED FOR HIM.

5. WE WILL REMAIN CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH TANCO BUT HAVE NO DOUBT THAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT IS HIGH PRIORITY MATTER FOR HIM. HE HOPES HE HAS NOT CAUSED DIFFICULTY FOR HIS FRIEND HUG BUT SAID HE LEARNED ONLY TOO CONFIDENTIAL

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LATE THAT AHMED IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE PRESIDENT.

6. ON POSSIBLE HOSTSHIP, TANCO ERRONEOUSLY THOUGHT WE WERE TRYING TO MUSCLE THE NIGERIANS BUT WAS DELIGHTED AT U. S. OFFER EITHER FOR 1979 OR 1980. HE WAS ADVISED THAT DECISION RESTS SOLELY WITH NIGERIANS AS TO 1979. HE DOES WANT TO SETTLE 1979 SITE DURING CURRENT SESSION AND HAD NOT FOCUSED ON TIGHT FRAMEWORK OR JUNE WFC MEETING CONSIDERING FAO CONFERENCE ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR JULY. HE AGREED WFC SESSION SHOULD BEST BE DELAYED TO THE FALL REGARDLESS OF WHERE HELD AND SAID THIS WAS NO PROBLEM. WE WILL CONSULT NIGERIANS ASAP AND DISCUSS FURTHER WITH TANCO.

7. ON DOCUMENTATION FOR DISCUSSION, MATTERS WILL CLARIFY FURTHER WHEN PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OPENS. WE HAVE COPIES OF G-77 TEXTS WHICH, AFTER HASTY GLANCE, APPEAR NOT REPEAT NOT TROUBLESOME. TANCO ACCEPTED OUR SUGGESTION THAT SINCE G-77 TEXTS ARE REASONABLE, IT MIGHT BE BEST TO AMALGAMATE THEM TO EXTENT POSSIBLE WITH SECRETARIAT TEXTS IN ATTEMPT TO WORK FROM ONE SET OF DOCUMENTATION. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO09243
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780234-1048
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780696/aaaadety.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d9883d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2491062
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PROPOSED U. S. HOST- SHIP DOCUMENTATION
TAGS: AORG, MX, UN, WFC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d9883d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014